

*I Mina'trentai Siete Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
**BILL STATUS**

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
316-37 (COR)	Sabina Flores Perez	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) FROM FISCAL YEAR 2024 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-42 AS AMENDED, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (DISID) RELATIVE TO IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRIVATE CARE SERVICES.	6/4/24 2:42 p.m..						

***I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2024 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 316-37 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Sabina Flores Perez/SFP

**AN ACT TO *APPROPRIATE* FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) FROM FISCAL YEAR 2024 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-42 AS AMENDED, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (DISID) RELATIVE TO IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRIVATE CARE SERVICES.**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
3 finds that the care needs of individuals with severe disabilities continues to grow  
4 and, as such, creates a heightened awareness of the urgency to develop an effective  
5 means to address these needs. Currently, Catholic Social Services (CSS), through a  
6 contract from the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities  
7 (DISID), provides the following programs: (1) Community Habilitation Program  
8 (CHP) for Individuals with Moderate to Severe Intellectual/Cognitive,  
9 Developmental, or Other Significant Disabilities – presently servicing 12 clients  
10 (maximum capacity per contract), (2) Residential Care for Adults with Profound  
11 Intellectual and/or Cognitive Disabilities – presently servicing 22 clients (maximum  
12 capacity per contract), and (3) Respite and Personal Care Assistance (PCA) –  
13 presently servicing 35 clients, a total of 488 hours per month (maximum capacity  
14 per contract).

1           *I Liheslatura* finds that DISID manages a waiting list for each of their  
2 programs, which as of May 24, 2024 reflects the following: (1) Community  
3 Habilitation Program (CHP) for Individuals with Moderate to Severe  
4 Intellectual/Cognitive, Developmental, or Other Significant Disabilities – 5 clients  
5 awaiting admission (avg. wait time: 219 days), (2) Residential Care for Adults with  
6 Profound Intellectual and/or Cognitive Disabilities – 3 clients awaiting admission  
7 (avg. wait time 413 days), and (3) Respite and Personal Care Assistance (PCA) – 13  
8 clients awaiting respite services (avg. wait time: 292 days) and 22 clients awaiting  
9 PCA (avg. wait time: 329 days). Additionally, respite and PCA services are often  
10 requested for individuals whose disability has progressed over time and whose social  
11 systems are either unstable or otherwise unavailable. Providing access to care for  
12 clients awaiting these specific services and those presently receiving limited services  
13 through CSS has become a focal point for DISID.

14           *I Liheslatura* finds that both current and awaiting clients of the Respite and  
15 PCA programs have economic limitations and depend on government assistance.  
16 Recognizing the current capacities of CSS, DISID acknowledges the most suitable  
17 resource that can provide services and adjust quickly to changes in client needs is  
18 private care service providers who, on average, charge fifteen dollars (\$15) per hour,  
19 some adding fees for mileage depending on travel distance. In good faith, DISID has  
20 issued five proposal requests hoping to award a contract to one of several providers,  
21 however, to no avail. Upon inquiry, it was revealed that they were unable to accept  
22 a government contract due to the waiting time to receive payment for services.  
23 Private care providers, apart from those associated with large corporate  
24 organizations, do not have the capital to fund their workers while awaiting payment  
25 from the government.

26           *I Liheslatura* finds that, at minimum, clients are scheduled on average for  
27 sixteen (16) hours per month, based on CSS reports. Applying this minimum to the  
28 number of clients of thirty-five (35) waiting and the average cost of fifteen dollars

1 (\$15) for private care services, funding necessary to meet the minimum is \$8,400.  
2 At the far end of the cost spectrum, clients may require up to twenty-one (21) hours  
3 per week or eighty-four (84) hours per month. Using the same variables, the cost  
4 could rise up to \$44,100 per month.

5 *I Liheslatura* finds that DISID, as the designated point of entry for services  
6 for persons with disabilities, continues to explore ways to improve access to much  
7 needed services. Its efforts include evaluating the potential of direct hiring of care  
8 providers as staff under the Support Services Division and increased collaboration  
9 with non-profit and volunteer organizations. To compliment these efforts, it is  
10 critical a mechanism be established, through policy, to allow DISID to expedite  
11 payment to private care providers who have the resources to meet the ever changing  
12 care needs of persons with disabilities.

13 Therefore it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to appropriate the sum of  
14 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to provide DISID with the ability to expedite  
15 direct payments to private care providers, in order to increase access to individuals  
16 with disabilities to consistent care and assistance, and to shorten the waiting period  
17 for those individuals seeking private care services.

18 **Section 2. Appropriation to the Department of Integrated Services for**  
19 **Individuals with Disabilities (DISID).**

20 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the sum of Fifty Thousand  
21 Dollars (\$50,000) is hereby appropriated from Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund  
22 revenues collected in excess of the adopted levels enumerated in Public Law 37-42,  
23 as amended, to the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with  
24 Disabilities (DISID) for the express purpose of providing private care services to  
25 individuals with disabilities. This appropriation shall not lapse and shall continue to  
26 be available until fully expended.

27 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.